

PURPLE EYE LEAF SPOT ON MAPLE

C. P. Seymour

More than 100 species of maple, *Acer* sp. L., are found in North America, Central and East Asia, Europe, and North Africa, with many of these being grown as shade trees and ornamentals (1). Red maple, *Acer rubrum* L., is among the most common trees found growing in wet areas and occurs in every county in Florida. This species is particularly recognized for its red flower and fruit in the spring and its red and yellow leaves in the fall (5). The geographical range of red maple in North America is from Newfoundland south to Florida and west to Texas (1).

SYMPTOMS. Purple eye leaf spot is caused by the fungus *Phyllosticta minima* (Berk. & Curt.) Ell. & Ev. (4) and is more severe on *A. rubrum* L., *A. saccharinum* L., and *A. saccharum* Marsh than on other species of maple (3). Leaf spots measure up to $\frac{1}{4}$ inch or more in diameter and are irregular in shape with a brown center and a broad purple border (2,3) (Fig. 1). Premature defoliation may result from severely spotted leaves (2).

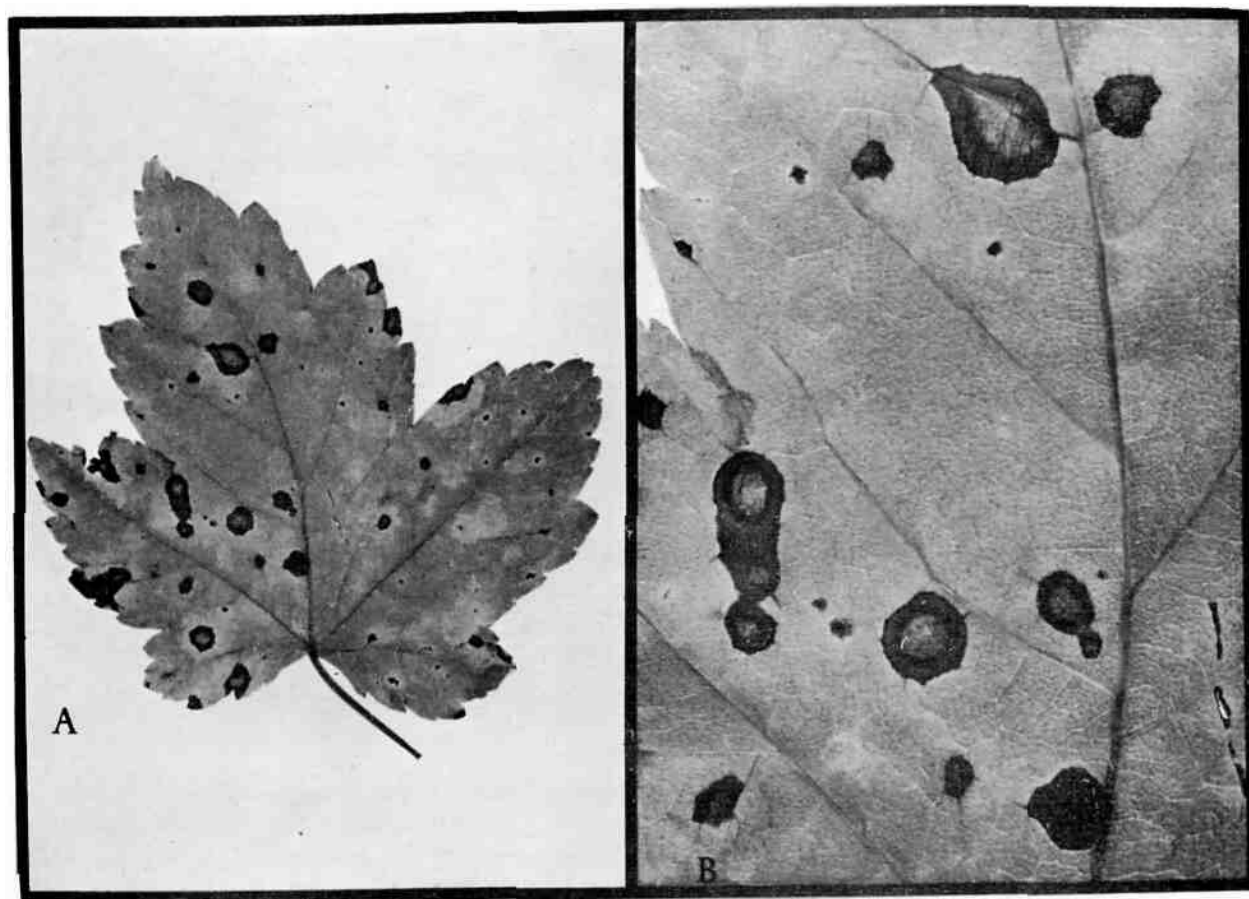


Fig. 1. Purple eye leaf spot on *Acer rubrum*: A) leaf symptoms; B) close-up of spots showing brown centers with purple borders.

CONTROL. Disease control is accomplished by applying zineb three times at 2-week intervals starting when leaves are unfolding from buds (3).

Literature Cited

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